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America Is Spy-Heaven

THE HEADLINES HOLLER "Soviet Spies Penetrate CIA and State Departments."

But shux! Nothing new in that! So why all the yakkity, when all any foreign espionage agent needs do is to sit comfortably on his gluteus maximus in some hotel room and clip the mass of vital information from U. S. magazines, industrial house organs and free handouts from federal bureaus. Iron Curtain on the Soviet side! Open sieve on ours!

FOR INSTANCE, EXAMINE the quarterly-mag printed by the Sperry-Rand Electronics Corporation—a symposium of top drawer military information, authored mostly by high-ranking Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine officers, NASA technicians and procurement officials, each paid liberally for his manuscript.

Yes! All a foreign spy need do is to invest a few bucks in U. S. five cent stamps and request free booklets from the hundreds of companies which manufacture government precision gadgets. And zippo! Here comes a bushel-basketful of slick paper, multicolored fine-screen digests replete with data, diagrams, cut-away drawings, plant locales, research experiments and new methods—a perfect handbook which any Ruski scientist can digest at a glance.

No need to burgle embassy safes, or make microfilm copies, or cultivate some federal chick. If you'd like the full details, with scale-drawings, of the latest hydrogen-fluorine rocket engine as built by Pratt & Whitney, just write for the illustrated pamphlet. Do you wish to learn how many Polaris missiles the U. S. Navy has on patrol, just go to the nearest public library's periodical room and flip back the pages of Newsweek (page 81, Feb. 11, 1963) to Lockheed's full-page ad.

OR TURN TO ALCOA'S ad for details on the Army's new extended range grenade launcher, showing how the "trigger housing folds away for firing in sub-zero weather with mittens," etc. Or, -perhaps the Kremlin would like the exact locations of our Atlas, Titan and Minuteman bases. Just thumb through the U. S. News & World Report of recent date.

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Now here's a delectable hunk of ready-to-use spy-advice from a late issue of the U. S. N & WR. It's ostensibly addressed to boat owners and reads, "Underwater changes are indicated in chartlets showing displacement of channels, new shoals and other navigation hazards . . . By July and August twenty more of these chartlets will be ready, covering the U. S. Atlantic coast from Long Island to Hatteras. To obtain either the shoreline or hydrographic overlays, write to Director of Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C. There is no charge."

No charge! Just step up all you foreign creeps and get the hot-info for zero. To be sure there is a federal law since 1955 making it illegal for any Soviet citizen in the U. S. to purchase or possess aerial maps, charts, or photos scaled more than one inch for four miles.

BUT THAT'S LIKE LEAVING a dog to guard a butcher shop. For J. Edgar Hoover testified recently to the House Appropriations Committee that "a certain Soviet employee of the UN purchased 300 prohibited scale maps by posing as a 'student.'"

And a while ago Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, ex-chief of the Central Intelligence Agency said cynically, "Nowhere in the world do foreign agents lead such lives of pampered luxury as right here." And why is this?

Because there is no central security agency in Washington to screen highly sensitive material—merely individual departments ruled by whim and impulse of their executives and a horde of public relations blokes anxious to impress the Boss by making a high score in the public prints. Too many blabber mouths spilling too much vital data.

Thus one department chief, to the horror of his neighboring bureau head, releases a delicate secret. And the privy intelligence leaks out by little rivulets to become a mighty torrent available to foreign spies without effort or cost—a richer source of confidential knowledge than any spy could sneak from federal files.

Here's Edgar Hoover again! "There are presently 761 Soviet-bloc diplomats and employees in this country, people extensively used for espionage. There are 1066 dependents of this Soviet-bloc, personnel largely trained as intelligence agents. During the last year 95 Soviet-bloc officials attended 65 technical exhibits and symposia in various corners of the country where they collected masses of highly sensitive information."

DEAR OLD UNCLE SILLY! He has never up-dated his antiquated policy of selling blue prints and work-sheets of every patent filed in Washington. Yes! At 10 cents the copy! Everything from our System for Nuclear Auxiliary Power (SNAP) to formulas for high energy chemical fuel to design for hump-backed hairpins. As Walter Winchell says, "The juiciest of my inside information comes from people who promised somebody faithfully they'd keep it a tongue-mum, secret." Funny people, hey?